



Robert G. Atkins
Interim Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

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October 5, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE TO INCREASE CONTRACT AMOUNT FOR ARUNDO INVASIVE WEED CONTROL SERVICES (Fifth District) (3-Votes)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the attached Amendment Modification 02 with the U S Forest Service (Forest Service) for an additional \$97,560, to control the invasive weed, Arundo, in the Angeles National Forest.
2. Authorize the Interim Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to sign.
3. Authorize the Interim Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to amend the Agreement in an amount not to exceed 10% of the original contract amount.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 14, 2003, your Board approved Agreement #74632 with the Forest Service authorizing the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) to control the invasive weed Arundo (Arundo donax) in the upper Santa Clara River in San Francisquito and Soledad Canyons on Forest Service controlled lands within the County. The agreement was amended on March 29, 2004, whereby the expiration date was extended from March 31, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

Approval of the recommended action will allow ACWM to continue to remove and treat the Arundo weed in the Angeles National Forest. This action will enable ACWM to maintain a relationship with a federal resource agency that administers lands which affect many cities within the County.

Arundo, also known as "Giant Reed", is a highly invasive weed known for degrading sensitive habitat, and the Forest Service has requested the expertise of ACWM to remove and treat this infestation due in part to the presence of several federally listed endangered species.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This agreement supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal 3, *Organizational Effectiveness*, and Goal 4, *Fiscal Responsibility*. ACWM plans to respond to the request for invasive weed control with a highly efficient and experienced team of County employees.

ACWM's fiscal capacity is strengthened as a result of the Forest Service's willingness to reimburse ACWM for its expertise in safely and effectively controlling invasive weeds for the protection of biodiversity in our natural areas.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Under this amendment, the Forest Service will provide ACWM an additional \$97,560, to continue invasive weed control services. Therefore, the contract is 100% revenue offset and has no impact on net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The terms of the Amended Agreement are for the period commencing October 21, 2003, through March 31, 2005.

The Amendment has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Agreement will allow ACWM to use its expertise in the area of vegetation management to help a federal resource agency with a difficult invasive weed that is significantly impacting a sensitive riparian habitat. This activity will not negatively affect any current ACWM projects.

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CONCLUSION

It is requested that the three (3) copies of the Amendment submitted to your Board, along with the minute order authorizing the Interim Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to sign, be returned to ACWM. The Department will forward to the Forest Service.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT G. ATKINS
Interim Agricultural Commissioner/
Director of Weights and Measures

RGA:RBS:JH:rms

Attachments

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel